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dependent spirit, whose political and religious independence could not be shaken by the violence of persecution, nor frittered down by the revolution of centuries. The enemies of H. will, no doubt, attribute this attack on the Covenanters to a spirit of envy; because these men, for unbending integrity, seem to stand higher in the public estimation than himself; they will attribute it to the impotent efforts of revenge for the desertion of his hearers, or, like your correspondent X., they will impute it to a corporation spirit, which has melted down his individuality, and induced the little Presbyterian parson to say, "I am the Church." Covenanters may speak for themselves; but, I am convinced, they will never enter the coalition with the enemies of H. and his illustrious fellow sufferers; they will never homologate the crime of the unfeeling X., by "reproving the speeches of one that is desperate." Having thus laid before you a short and imperfect statement of the sufferings of these men, I call upon you, as patriots, as philanthropists, as friends to liberty civil and religious, and as enemies to every species of cruelty, oppression, tyranny, and persecution, to exclude from your pages every thing calculated to tarnish the character, or aggravate the misery, of these worthy men. I call upon you, and I call upon all your philanthropic correspondents, to combine your influence in attempting to alleviate their sufferings. What! shall the combined energy of the British empire be exerted in attempting to drive the armies of Bonaparte out of the Peninsula, whilst, at home, the innocent victims of *Regium Donum* are exposed to the most cruel species of martyrdom, without pity or relief! "Oh! forbid it, Heaven,

that in a Christian climate souls refined"

"Should show so heinous black obscene a deed."

I am your obedient servant,

A MAN OF FEELING.

June 10th, 1813.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CONDUCTING THE DUBLIN WEEKLY AND DAILY SCHOOLS,\* HELD AT THE DUBLIN FREE SCHOOL-HOUSE, IN SCHOOL-STREET, THE 9TH OF JANUARY, 1813; PETER LA TOUCHE, JUN. ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

THE attention of the public appears to have been, within a few years past, particularly turned to the education of the poor, both in this and the sister island; and as this Institution has now existed more than twenty-six years, the Committee are inclined to take a retrospect of its origin, and of the manner in which it has been conducted, and to advert to what they apprehend to be the effects produced.

In the beginning of the year 1786, it was opened under the denomination of *St. Catherine's Sunday School*, and children, without restriction on account of religious opinions, were admitted, neither were the admissions (although it bore the name of the parish in which it was situated,) confined to any prescribed district of residence, but all whose local situation permitted their at-

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\* The following report will be found very interesting, as it shows how completely the prejudices of many may be done away, or at least put to silence, by following the straight path of education, without any attempt at proselytism.

B.M.M.

tendance, and who were properly recommended, were allowed to receive its benefits.

It continued under this name until the year 1799, during almost the whole of which period the school for males was held in the Manorial Court house, and that for females in the Parochial School house, and in this period 4332 males, and 3264 females, were admitted.

About the year 1798, several who took an active share in the management of these schools, finding inconvenience from the situation of the apartments they were held in, and that they were much too small to accommodate the encreasing numbers applying for admission, conceived the idea of building an extensive and well-arranged School-house; expecting that thereby the particular schools they were actively concerned in conducting, would be commodiously accommodated, and also that it would encourage the establishment of some other school or schools, by holding out the inducement of an eligible house to hold such in, and that thus the great object of educating the children of the poor, (too long and too much neglected,) would be facilitated. Accordingly, subscriptions were raised, an association formed, and fifteen trustees selected, in whom the property was vested, the school-house was finished capable of accommodating one thousand scholars, and it was declared to be

for the accommodation of schools wherein no distinction should be made, either in managers, instructors, or scholars, on account of any religious opinions they entertained. The school-house was finished in the spring of 1799, and the Committee applied for liberty to occupy it on the one day of the week on which the schools were held, to wit, Sundays, and after showing that they were held on the broad and liberal principle of not making distinction on account of religious opinions, they obtained the permission sought for, and, accordingly, school was opened in the new building on the 23d of June, 1799, when the name of the schools was changed to that of the Dublin Weekly Schools, thereby removing any idea of parochial residence being necessary for admittance.

The schools continued to be thus held, until the early part of the year 1808, when it was concluded, that in addition to the weekly school, a daily school should be established: this was accordingly opened on the 7th of March, 1808, the trustees having permitted the further use of the school-house. An account of the numbers admitted from the commencement of each school, to the 29th of September, 1812, together with the numbers admitted within the year ending same period, and the numbers then on the books are as follow, viz.

#### WEEKLY SCHOOLS.

Admitted since the commencement in January, 1786, to 29th September, 1812.	Admitted last year, ending 29th September, 1812.	On the books 29th September, 1812.
<i>Males</i> ,..... 12,402	<i>Males</i> ,..... 531	<i>Males</i> ,..... 426
<i>Females</i> ,..... 10,323	<i>Females</i> ,..... 401	<i>Females</i> ,..... 326
<hr/> 22,725	<hr/> 932	<hr/> 752

## DAILY SCHOOLS.

Admitted since the commencement in March, 1808, to 29th September, 1812.	Admitted last year, ending 29th September, 1812.	On the books 29th September, 1812.
<i>Males</i> ,..... 3324	<i>Males</i> ,..... 741	<i>Males</i> ,..... 641
<i>Females</i> ,..... 2623	<i>Females</i> ,..... 647	<i>Females</i> ,..... 63
<hr/> 5947 <hr/>	<hr/> 1388 <hr/>	<hr/> 1104 <hr/>

Although in the aggregate number of 28,672 scholars admitted, the Committee are ready to allow that many have received but little advantage, yet the Committee have much satisfaction in declaring, from the knowledge of some of their members, who have continued to take an active share in the management of these schools for many years, and some almost from their commencement, that it is their decided opinion, much benefit has been received by very many: indeed, they view with gratification divers who now hold the rank of respectable traders, and consider, that they have been in a great measure fitted for such situations by the education they received in these schools. The instruction has not been confined to what a poor-school may in general be supposed to bestow, such as reading, writing, and common arithmetic, but where talent was discovered, means for its cultivation were afforded, and instruction given in the higher branches of arithmetic, and the first principles of geometry, mensuration, and book-keeping. The Committee may further remark, that besides selecting from amongst the scholars such masters and mistresses as were necessary for the institution, which for many years past, they, with but few exceptions, have done, they were enabled to recommend some who have been appointed to have the charge of other schools, and who, they have reason to believe,

have given much satisfaction in their situations.

It may be proper to observe, that prior to April, 1808, the scholars received their instruction and were furnished with stationary, and, at times, premiums in articles of clothing, or books, gratis; since that period the scholars in the weekly school pay one penny, and those of the daily school (from its commencement,) two pence each per week; this regulation was adopted with a two-fold view: first, to aid the funds, which were at that time very inadequate; and secondly, from a belief that whatever is paid for, be the payment ever so small, is generally more valued, than when received gratuitously: besides, it opened a way for a description of persons who would be unwilling that their children should receive education as an absolute boon, and yet unable to make full payment; and the Committee have reason to believe that benefit and not injury has arisen from this regulation.

But above all, the Committee are desirous of calling the attention of the public, to the advantageous result from the conduct steadily observed for a very considerable number of years respecting moral and religious instruction. It may be understood from what has been already stated, that no distinction is made, on account of religious opinion in managers, instructors, or

scholars, and from this harmonizing system, the Committee have with great satisfaction observed the happiest consequences; scholars of different religious communions, harmoniously studying together, and teachers, some of whose religious sentiments might appear to be much opposed to each other, cordially labouring together for the good of the rising generation. It may be asked what particular conduct has been pursued? The answer is, avoiding carefully the giving offence to any; steady conduct to discourage bad, and encourage good morals, and reading the scriptures, not only in the schools, but leaving them in the hands of the scholars qualified to make use of them, out of school hours, and thus laying a foundation of religious instruction from that book which all denominations of Christians admit their respective tenets to be tried by, and leaving to the parents or friends any particular or sectarian instruction they should think necessary: this plan undoubtedly met with the disapprobation of divers persons in times past, and the Committee do not call in question the purity of the motives of such; but the Committee would be doing injustice not to say, that these objections appear gradually wearing away; a fact which is abundantly evidenced by remarks written by visitors who have called to see the schools, in a book provided for the purpose, and which is inspected in the meetings of the Committee. Some of these are so much to the point, that it is deemed not unsuitable to give them a place in this Report, viz.

"I have visited this school, and am perfectly satisfied of the advantage attending the system on which it is conducted.

"—————"  
[Bishop of ———]

"July, 8, 1811.

"We have examined the manner in which the business of the schools is conducted; and have every reason to be satisfied with it; and with the attention we have received from the Master.

"————— A.M.

"————— A.M. T.C.C.

[Feb. 1812.] "—————

"————— T.C.D."

"I have visited the daily school, and have been highly gratified at the order and regularity which prevail: Mr. Jones paid the utmost attention, and gave me much information on the plan.

"————— F.T.C.D."

"June 13, 1812.

"Visited these schools and was delighted at the order and regularity of them; am surprised at the vast improvement of the entire of the children, particularly the very young of them.

"—————"  
"Roman Catholic Curate of ——— parish."

"31st Aug 1812.

"I visited this excellent institution, and though my expectations were raised very high, I found every thing superior to what I imagined; the order, silence, and obedience of the children particularly pleased me, though not less than the vigilance and kind treatment of the superiors to those entrusted to them.

"—————"  
[R. C.] "Curate ———st. Chapel."

"Sept. 1812.

"October 2d, 1812—I visited this institution, and after minutely investigating every part of its management, have every reason to be pleased. The order, decency, and regularity, with a degree of silence which I did not expect to find among such numbers, were highly gratifying; and the degree of improvement in the different classes appeared to me

superior to any thing I could reasonably expect. As I formerly entertained prejudices against the institution, I was the more particular in investigating its merits; and I think it but candid to acknowledge, that these prejudices are removed, and that I consider it as highly worthy of encouragement.

“ ————.”  
[Rector of ——— Church.]

“ *October 19th*—I visited this school, and am so much delighted with its admirable system, that on the same, two schools, one for boys, and the other for girls will be erected in ——— parish.

“ ————.”  
[——— Street Chapel.]

“ I have been highly gratified on this day on observing the manner in which this school is conducted; and do think the master highly meritorious for his mode of conducting it.

“ ————.”  
[Titular Bishop of ———]

“ *Nov. 23d, 1812.*

“ In an accidental, perhaps rather providential walk through this part of the city, my attention was taken by the daily school, (which though much pressed in time, I resolved to visit) and have been much gratified by what I have seen, though I wish yet to see and learn much more.

“ I wish to have it noted here, that having lately erected (under a grant from the trustees of Erasmus Smith) a School-house in the Co. ———. I wish very much to get a decent couple who could conduct the school on the same principles as this school is so admirably conducted.

[*Dec. 1812.*] \* “ ————.”

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\* It has been judged best not to insert names or residence of the writers of these remarks, unless their consent was previously obtained, which, it will be obvious, would be too difficult to attempt.

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It may be said generally, that both male and female schools continue to afford satisfaction to the Committee, and they hope to have them still further improved, but particularly they have to report much improvement in the working department of the female school, (a part concerning which the committee, composed wholly of men, have found attended with considerable difficulty) the scholars receive the whole of their earnings in clothes made at the school, and attention is also paid to mending such of their clothes as want it; their thus receiving clothing will explain the charge in the Treasurer's account for the purchase of articles for this purpose, and the receipts mentioned therein on this account, will give some information of the extent. There is another item in the account that it may be suitable for the Committee to explain; that is, a sum received for stationary sold. The Committee desirous to forward the instruction of the poor without being confined to any district, have procured supplies of slates and pencils, of these they have sold considerable quantities for the use of schools in various parts of Ireland, as well as of spelling and reading lessons, and have thereby, they conceive, done a service to other institutions without injury to their own funds.

The Committee have to notice that for several years past, as will appear by reference to the annual reports, the institution has been in debt; this year it is pleasingly the reverse: at the commencement there was a debt of £194 10s. 5½.; the income arising from the usual sources would have considerably reduced this debt, but the receipt of legacies to the amount of £222 15s. places a sum in the Treasurer's hands. Of these legacies £100 was from the late Mrs. Arabella New-

comen, and £22 15s. from the late Mrs. Elizabeth Dawson, both direct to this institution; the other £100 was from William Dullas, Esq. late of Bombay, in the East Indies, bequeathed in the following words, as appears by advertisement in the Dublin Gazette of the 18th April, 1812, viz.

"I give and bequeath the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid by my executors to the President and members, or to the governor or governors and members of any society or institution now established, or that may hereafter be established in Ireland, for the purpose of instructing the children of the poor of that country in good morals, and other useful branches of education independent of, and without interfering with the religious tenets of any persuasion whatever; to be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of said institution."

And these schools having been conducted on the principles mentioned in said bequest, the committee made application and received the same through the hands of Mr. Edward Stevens of James's-street.

AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE DUBLIN WEEKLY AND DAILY SCHOOLS, HELD AT THE SCHOOL-HOUSE IN SCHOOL STREET, PURSUANT TO ADVERTISEMENT, THE 31ST OCTOBER, 1812, GEORGE MAQUAY, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

The Treasurer's account has been examined and passed.

Resolved, That the Committee be directed to have a statement of said account printed, together with such report of the schools as they shall judge expedient.

*Account of the Income and Expenditure of the Dublin Weekly and Daily Schools for one Year ending 29th September, 1812.*

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions,.....	377	10	1	Balance due last year,.....	194	10	5½
Donations,.....	23	0	0	Rent and insurance one year,.....	141	18	8
Legacies,.....	222	15	0	Superintendent,.....	100	0	0
From scholars of weekly school,.....	100	11	6	Teachers of weekly school,....	90	10	0
daily do. ....	236	10	0	daily do.....	150	12	0
For stationary sold, including payment for books lost by scholars,.....	104	7	7	* Stationary,.....	71	19	4
— work done in daily female school,.....	36	17	1	Furniture and repairs,.....	36	8	0
* From female scholars for articles of clothing,.....	54	3	6½	Coals and Candles,.....	47	8	6
				Printing and advertising,....	5	2	2
				Cleaning schools,.....	14	9	5½
				Threads, needles, &c. for female daily working school,	12	17	9
				Articles for clothing for female scholars,.....	106	3	9½
				Balance in Treasurer's hands, 183	14	8	
	£1155	14	9½		£1155	14	9½

\* This is mostly the amount of their respective works, and of allowance to them for acting as monitors, &c.

\* A considerable quantity of stationary was on hands from last year.